

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01

OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01 SS-15 /071 W

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O R 191240Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2178

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ETEL, IT

SUBJECT: GOI UNABLE ATTEND JULY 21 WASHINGTON INMARSAT MEETING

1. SUMMARY: GOI REGRETS IT UNABLE ATTEND JULY 21 WASHINGTON INMARSAT MEETING. MFA EMPHASIZES THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT INDICATE LACK OF INTEREST BUT REFLECTS STAFFING SHORTAGE IN ROME. GOI POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED IN SUPPORT OF COMPROMISE AGREED UPON AT APRIL-MAY LONDON INMARSAT MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP FERRARI (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS) INFORMED EMBOFF JULY 19 THAT HE UNABLE ATTEND JULY 21 WASHINGTON INMARSAT MEETING AS OTHER URGENT MATTERS REQUIRE HIS PRESENCE IN ROME. MFA TRYING ARRANGE REPRESENTATION FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

3. FERRARI EMPHASIZED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING DISCUSSION THAT INABILITY ATTEND DID NOT RPT NOT REFLECT LACK OF INTEREST OR ANY CHANGE IN GOI POSITION IN SUPPORT OF COMPROMISE WORKED OUT AT APRIL-MAY 1975 LONDON INMARSAT MEETING. HE ASSURED

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EMBOFF THAT USG REQUIREMENT FOR TWO AGREEMENTS PRESENTS NO

RPT NO PROBLEMS FOR GOI.

4. FERRARI SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM MOSCOW, WHERE HE HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON INMARSAT. OBJECT OF VISIT WAS TO TRY AND PERSUADE SOVIETS THAT US PROBLEMS ARE REAL AND NEED TO BE MET. SOVIETS PROMISED STUDY DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY ITALIAN AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS AND HAVE ALSO RECEIVED DOCUMENTS FROM WASHINGTON EXPLAINING USG POSITION ON TWO AGREEMENTS ISSUE. FERRARI SAID HE INTERPRETED SOVIET REACTION AS "ENCOURAGING". SOVIETS STATED THEY NEEDED TIME TO STUDY DOCUMENTS IN ORDER TO FIND A WAY TO CONCILIATE US NEEDS WITH SOVIET REQUIREMENTS. FERRARI NOTED SOVIET TECHNICIANS APPEAR "VERY INTERESTED" IN INMARSAT. SOVIETS, WHILE NOT CONCERNED WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE'S NEED TO MAKE A PROFIT, DO WANT A WORKABLE SYSTEM.

5. FERRARI INDICATED SOVIETS AWARE OF AND INTERESTED IN RESULTS OF JULY 21 WASHINGTON MEETING. VOLPE

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